

**Arkansas Department of Education
Division of Public School Accountability
School Improvement Unit**



**SECOND ANNUAL
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE**

Turnaround in Action

June 15 – 18, 2015

**Hot Springs Convention Center
Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas**

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Monday, June 15, 2015

12:00 – 1:00	Registration
1:15 – 2:15	General Session – Rooms 207-209
2:30 – 3:30	Concurrent Sessions
3:45 – 4:45	Concurrent Sessions

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

8:00 – 8:30	Registration
8:30 – 9:30	Concurrent Sessions
9:45 – 10:45	Concurrent Sessions
10:45 - 12:15	Lunch On Your Own
12:15 – 1:15	Concurrent Sessions
1:30 – 2:30	Concurrent Sessions
2:45 – 3:45	Concurrent Sessions

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

8:00 – 8:30	Registration
8:30 – 9:30	Concurrent Sessions
9:45 – 10:45	Concurrent Sessions
10:45 - 12:15	Lunch On Your Own
12:15 – 1:15	Concurrent Sessions
1:30 – 2:30	Concurrent Sessions
2:45 – 3:45	Concurrent Sessions

Thursday, June 18, 2015

8:30 – 9:30	Concurrent Sessions
9:45 – 10:45	Concurrent Sessions
11:00 – 12:00	General Session – Rooms 207 - 209

Coffee, juice, water, and soft drinks will be available in the 200 Hallway in the mornings and afternoons.

The Conference Center Snack Bar will be open on the following dates and times:

- Tuesday, June 16, from 7:00 AM until 7:00 PM
- Wednesday, June 17, from 7:00 AM until 1:00 PM

A list of nearby restaurants will be available at the registration desk.

General Session Descriptions

General Session I - What's New?

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Mr. Elbert Harvey, School Improvement and Standards Assurance Coordinator
Mr. Bobby Lester, Federal Programs Director

Date: Monday 1:15 – 2:15

Room: 207, 208, 209

Session Description:

ADE school improvement leaders will provide updates regarding recent state legislation and requirements that impact school improvement efforts, as well as plans for implementing the ACSIP Field Test across the state. Time will be provided for questions.



General Session II - Turnaround in Action Wrap Up

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Dr. Richard Wilde, ADE School Improvement Unit Program Manager

Date: Thursday 11:00 – 12:00

Room: 207, 208, 209

Session Description: Dr. Wilde will conclude the 2015 ADE School Improvement Conference with a wrap-up session that will enhance participants' view of the "Big Picture" of School Turnaround while maintaining a laser-like focus on the reason for our work – our students. Directions for completing online surveys and receiving certificates of participation will be provided, as well.

Breakout Session Descriptions

1 - School Improvement and the Leadership Team

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Jody Vines – Principal /Washington Middle School, El Dorado School District

Karen Silmon – School Improvement Specialist

Date: Monday: 2:30 – 3:30 and 3:45 – 4:45

Room: 201

Session Description:

This session will include the role of the Building Level Leadership Team and Professional Learning Communities in the overall school improvement process. We will demonstrate how Google Docs is used in IMO documentation and how evidence is collected and presented. The session will include how data collection, needs surveys and observation data are used to drive professional development.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Strong Leadership

Effective Teachers

2 - Engagement Strategies for Busy Bodies and Busy Minds

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Kendall Day-4th Math, Nicosia Hunter-4th Science, LF Henderson/Ashdown

Robin Daniels-Instructional Facilitator

Date: Monday: 2:30 – 3:30 and 3:45 – 4:45

Tuesday: 8:30 – 9:30 and 9:45 – 10:45

Room: 205

Session Description:

Classroom walk-through data showed that student engagement was one of our lowest areas so we decided to research some different ways to engage our students. We visited another high-achieving school and learned quite a bit about math stations. Our teachers began researching websites and Pinterest for new ideas. We were fortunate to have a double block of math time so that one time could be used for fluency (stations) and one for a regular math class that focused on standards and higher-order thinking. The double block of math was a critical piece in making the stations work. Indistar's "Wise Ways" was also used when researching ways to increase student engagement. IMO data indicates student engagement has increased since stations were incorporated in the math classroom. More hands-on activities were included in math and science

classrooms. Star data has also shown an increase in math scores for most students. Students have performed at higher levels since more performance-based assessments rather than paper and pencil type assessments have been implemented. Students really enjoy these classes and it shows in their engagement level on a daily basis. Data was gathered for the groups through formative assessment of student understanding, Star Math scores and formal assessments. The students are grouped according to the skills they have not mastered. Some are grouped so they can be challenged. The groups change as the students master skills. The students never mention anything about the way they are grouped. It works well because the students don't feel frustrated or bored during the activities. When games or activities are done as a whole class students are grouped heterogeneously.

Participants will take away many different strategies on how they can engage students on a daily basis through journaling and technology. They will participate in hands-on activities, and see videos of students participating in various activities, as well as hear how some students feel about the stations and hands-on approach. They will also leave with research to support the use of stations to increase student engagement. Question and answer time will be provided, as well.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Effective Use of Time

Strengthening the Instructional Program

Effective Use of Data

3 - Creating a Vision

Presenter(s): Wendy Allen and Rick Myrick, ADE School Improvement Unit

Date: Tuesday: 8:30 – 9:30, 9:45 – 10:45, and 2:45 – 3:45
Thursday: 9:45 – 10:45

Room: Tuesday morning 102, Tuesday afternoon 207, and Thursday 205

Session Description:

Do your school and district have a slogan or a measurable vision? If the vision is not measurable, it is no longer a vision but a hope. In the book, "Learning by Doing" by Richard DuFour, "Vision provides a sense of direction and a basis for assessing both the current reality of the school and potential strategies, programs, and procedures to improve upon that reality." A worthwhile and achievable vision of the future, that is widely shared, will drive an organization towards excellence and long-range success. During this session, district and school leadership teams will walk through the process of formulating or modifying their current building or district vision to achieve a measurable result.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Strong Leadership

4 - District Readiness to Support School Turnaround

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Roxie Browning, ADE School Improvement Specialist
Tiah Frazier, ADE School Improvement Specialist

Date: Monday: 2:30 – 3:30 and 3:45 – 4:45
Wednesday: 8:30 – 9:30 and 9:45 – 10:45

Room: Monday 103 and Wednesday 207

Session Description:

The intended audience for this session is district personnel working directly with the building turnaround process. Participants will be reflective in their practices of establishing conditions necessary in the school turnaround process. Strategies and discussions to provide support to the buildings will focus on:

- The framework of district support of improvement in schools
- Brokering resources and providing technical assistance to buildings
- Next steps for a district to create conditions conducive for a principal's turnaround efforts to have the greatest chance for success
- Create cycles of clear expectations, regular accountability and support for principals, school improvement teams, instructional teams, and district and building personnel.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Strong Leadership

5 - Planning for Effective Professional Learning

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Jane Dearworth and Cathy Mackey
ADE Professional Development Unit

Date: Monday: 2:30 – 3:30 and 3:45 – 4:45

Room: 102

Session Description:

The purpose of professional learning is to develop the knowledge, skills, practices, and dispositions that educators need to help students perform at higher levels. A professional learning plan establishes short and long term outcomes for professional learning and implementation of the learning. With a strategic approach, there is a greater likelihood that educators have the support necessary to implement new

initiatives. This session will focus on tools available to support strategic planning and highlight state-initiated professional learning.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Strong Leadership

6 - Equity and Quality Education for All

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Oliver Dillingham

Date: Monday: 2:30 – 3:30 and 3:45 – 4:45

Room: 208

Session Description:

This session will focus on compliance with state and federal civil rights laws and providing an equitable, quality education for all students.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Effective Teachers

School Climate and Culture

7 - Revised Social Studies Curriculum Frameworks, Big Shifts and Implications in the Classroom

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Maggie Herrick, ADE Curriculum & Instruction, Public School Program Advisor, Social Studies

Date: Monday: 2:30 – 3:30, 3:45 – 4:45

Room: 202

Session Description:

Want to find out about the 2014 Social Studies Curriculum Framework Revision and the implications for K-12? The big shifts, disciplinary literacy, resources, instructional materials and implementation will be discussed.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Effective Teachers

Strengthening the Instructional Program

8 - School Improvement Planning

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

LaDonna Spain and John Harris
ADE School Improvement Unit

Date: Monday: 2:30 – 3:30 and 3:45 – 4:45

Wednesday: 12:15 – 1:15, 1:30 – 2:30, and 2:45 – 3:45

Room: Monday 207 and Wednesday 205

Session Description:

School improvement planning requires strong leadership to accomplish the school mission and achieve improvement goals. Instructional teams of effective teachers are required to implement and provide coordination of curricular, assessment, and instructional strategies to improve student outcomes. Participants will learn the value of a team structure for assessing current reality, creating a plan for implementation, and monitoring progress toward reaching school improvement goals.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Strong Leadership

Effective Teachers

Strengthening the Instructional Program

Effective Use of Data

9 - Implementing Indistar in Middle School

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Dr. Jim Cox, Principal Cedarville Middle School

Claire Pence, Site-Based School Improvement Specialist, Literacy Facilitator

Date: Tuesday: 1:30 – 2:30 and 2:45 – 3:45

Wednesday: 8:30 – 9:30 and 9:45 – 10:45

Room: 203

Session Description:

Dr. Cox and Mrs. Pence will present the process involved in implementing a school improvement plan using Indistar for the first time at Cedarville Middle School. They will share ways to choose appropriate indicators for first time users, organize Instructional Team (PLC) meetings, maintain agendas and minutes, and create effective lesson

plans using a template that grew out of PLC collaboration. Methods for collecting and maintaining evidence of tasks will also be shared.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Strong Leadership

Effective Teachers

Effective Use of Time

Strengthening the Instructional Program

10 - Leadership is Action, Not Position

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Dr. Darnell Bell, Harris Elementary School, Pulaski County Special School District

Date: Tuesday: 8:30 – 9:30, 9:45 – 10:45, and 12:15 – 1:15

Room: 203

Session Description:

Administrators and leadership team members will benefit from this session on how distributive leadership helps improve school climate and culture and builds the capacity of others. Harris Elementary will share their story of struggles and successes through three years of Priority School status and overcoming Academic Distress status. We correlate our practices with research from Indistar's "Wise Ways" and School Turnaround Principles. Multiple data sets, including Scholastic Audit and student achievement data, are some examples of the experiential evidence that will be presented in this session. Participants should leave the session with knowledge of how one team used Turnaround Principles to inspire leadership and build capacity.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Strong Leadership

11 - Revamping Your School Culture

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Heather Allison: Chairperson of School Culture, Forrest City

Marsha McVay-Cain: Instructional Facilitator, Forrest City

Jana Richie: Curriculum Director, Forrest City

Date: Tuesday: 12:15 – 1:15, 1:30 – 2:30, and 2:45 – 3:45

Wednesday: 8:30 – 9:30 and 9:45 – 10:45

Room: 205

Session Description:

Each school is a unique culture with traditions and expectations that mirror the mission and demographics of its population. “Revamping Your School Culture” will present strategies and suggestions for assessing your school culture with the ultimate goal of establishing a culture and climate that is both positive and progressive while providing an enriched, student-centered academic environment.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Effective Use of Time
Strengthening the Instructional Program
Effective Use of Data

12 – Title I - 1003 (a) and Private Schools: Reaching Children

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Otistene Smith
ADE Federal Programs Unit

Date: Tuesday: 8:30 – 9:30 and 9:45 – 10:45
Wednesday: 8:30 – 9:30 and 9:45 – 10:45

Room: 204

Session Description:

This session will assist Priority and Focus Schools in understanding the 1003 (a) grant process and complying with federal requirements that will benefit low-achieving students in meeting their academic standards. Also the most commonly asked questions concerning private schools will be addressed to help provide services to eligible students.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Strong Leadership
Effective Teachers
Effective Use of Time
Strengthening the Instructional Program
Effective Use of Data
School Climate and Culture
Effective Family and Community Engagement

13 - Parental Involvement Guidance and Compliance

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Dr. Geraldine Mallette
Federal Programs Unit

Date: Tuesday: 12:15 – 1:15
Wednesday: 12:15 – 1:15

Room: 204

Session Description:

This session will focus on compliance mandates for Parental Involvement as they relate to the Federal Title I, Part A Program. Each year, districts and schools receiving Title I funding are required to provide certain resources and information to parents of students receiving Title I services, and submit a plan to the district detailing how and when these resources and information will be provided to parents. This session will cover the laws governing Parental Involvement as they relate to Title I schools and also offer strategies and tools to help with the task of Parental Involvement compliance. Superintendents, Title I school principals, parent facilitators, parent coordinators, teachers of Title I students and parents of students receiving Title I services could benefit from the information that will be covered during this session. The focus of this session will be on creating a compliant school plan, documentation that must be retained in the building, parental involvement committee meetings, plan submission to district office, and website posting timelines.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Effective Family and Community Engagement

14 - Federal Programs Update

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Bobby Lester, ADE Federal Programs Director
Jayne Green – ADE Title I Director
Dr. Jonathan Knight – ADE School-wide/Targeted Assisted Program Advisor
Rick Green – ADE Title II-A Program Advisor
Miguel Hernandez - ADE Title III Program Advisor

Date: Tuesday: 1:30 – 2:30 and 2:45 – 3:45
Wednesday: 1:30 – 2:30 and 2:45 – 3:45

Room: 204

Session Description:

We will discuss the addition of the Title I, Title II, and Title III applications to the Indistar (ACSIP Field Test) website. We will also answer any questions in regard to Title I School-wide and Targeted Assisted Programs

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Strong Leadership
Effective Teachers
Strengthening the Instructional Program
Effective Use of Data

15 - Successful Team Structure**Presenter(s) Title/Position:**

Lisa Martin, Augusta School District Curriculum Facilitator
Jessica Stone, Augusta School District Literacy Facilitator
Joseph Brown, Augusta High School Principal

Date: Tuesday: 12:15 – 1:15, 1:30 – 2:30, and 2:45 – 3:45

Room: 202

Session Description:

Effective leadership starts with a strong school leadership team structure. The Augusta High School Leadership Team will show how their team structure is set up and share successes and failures. This session is designed for all levels of school leadership teams and teams can take away practical, research-based practices that have proven effective. The session will include ideas related to team member roles, PLCs, agendas, meetings, and accountability.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Strong Leadership

16 - Supporting Title I Goals with Arts Education**Presenter(s) Title/Position:**

Lana Hallmark, ADE Curriculum & Instruction, Fine Arts Program Advisor

Date: Tuesday: 12:15 – 1:15, 1:30 – 2:30, and 2:45 – 3:45

Room: 102

Session Description:

Arts programs can help schools achieve the goals of Title I by facilitating student engagement and learning, strengthening parent involvement, and improving school climate and school-wide behavior. This session will introduce the district's administration to the opportunities presented through arts programs and offer tools for justifying their inclusion in federal funding requests.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Strengthening the Instructional Program

17 - Curriculum Development and Alignment**Presenter(s) Title/Position:**

Janie Hickman, ADE School Improvement Unit
Lisa Knoedl, ADE School Improvement Unit
Sherri Thorne, ADE Curriculum and Instruction Unit

Date: Tuesday: 8:30 – 9:30 and 9:45 – 10:45
Wednesday: 8:30 – 9:30 and 9:45 – 10:45

Room: Tuesday in 103 and **Wednesday in 209**

Session Description:

This session will focus on using research-based strategies to align curriculum in order to promote the increase of student achievement. Our presentation will include video clips, and ideas and strategies. Come prepared to share!

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Strengthening the Instructional Program

18 - Data Driven Decisions**Presenter(s) Title/Position:**

Eliza Simmons, Ashdown Junior High, Instructional Facilitator

Date: Tuesday: 12:15 – 1:15, 1:30 – 2:30, and 2:45 – 3:45
Wednesday: 8:30 – 9:30 and 9:45 – 10:45

Room: 201

Session Description:

This workshop is intended for classroom teachers/facilitators/principals. Research shows that all decisions should be based on solid evidence. Digital data walls are a way to track student achievement, attendance, discipline, and scheduling data. Participants will gain knowledge of strategies for analyzing data.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Effective Use of Data

19 - Turnaround Achievement with Assessments**Presenter(s) Title/Position:**

Dr. Mitzi Smith and Jamie Holiman
ADE School Improvement Unit

Date: Tuesday: 8:30 – 9:30 and 9:45 – 10:45

Wednesday: 12:15 – 1:15, 1:30 – 2:30, and 2:45 – 3:45

Room: Tuesday **207** and Wednesday 103

Session Description:

Participants will gain an understanding of the pre and post tests and how this can increase not only achievement but also give teachers more classroom time to teach difficult objectives. Additionally, educators will get an understanding of formative assessments and how the assessments can aid schools in identifying students who may need interventions now. There will also be conversations on the use of common formative assessments and participants will be involved in activities which will imitate the formative assessment process. Come have some fun and see how assessment can help turn your school around!

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Strengthening the Instructional Program
Effective Use of Data

20 - Detoxing School Culture for Successful School Turnaround**Presenter(s) Title/Position:**

Kerri Williams and Pam Clark
ADE School Improvement Unit
David Tollett
ADE Federal Programs Unit

Date: Tuesday: 9:45 – 10:45

Wednesday: 9:45 – 10:45, 12:15 – 1:15, 1:30 – 2:30, and 2:45 – 3:45

Room: 209

Session Description:

This presentation is intended for all school level personnel. This presentation will address how the “toxic” culture in a school can hinder the positive school turnaround. No matter how hard you work, school improvement will not happen in a toxic culture. This hands-on workshop sheds new light on an age-old challenge: addressing diverse issues of resistant staff to develop a cohesive, positive culture. This 1 hour session will:

- Explore the root causes of staff resistance to change, and
- Leave with concrete strategies that will improve school culture and
- Lay the foundation for a powerful learning environment.
- Reflect on your own contributions to the school’s culture.
- Explore strategies to overcome resistance to change.
- Develop a plan for transforming your school’s culture.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

School Climate and Culture

21 - Wonder How to Change School Culture by Utilizing Data for Intervention?

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Dr. Palmer Quarrels, Principal, Wonder Junior High

Kisa Morman, Math Curriculum Specialist

Katina Griffin, Math Interventionist

Phyllis Robinson, Literacy Interventionist

Ouida Cunningham, Media Specialist

Date: Tuesday: 12:15 – 1:15, 1:30 – 2:30, and 2:45 – 3:45

Room: 103

Session Description:

The Leadership Team reviewed various data sets including Classroom Walk-Throughs, TESS, ACT Prep, parental involvement, book studies, grade distribution sheets, TLI assessments, Plato, and demographics to identify school improvement needs. Data-based decisions to be discussed include the following topics: forming groups, enrichments, feedback, follow ups, the impact on stakeholders, data wall usage, spiraling, PLCs, common planning and protocols for analyzing data.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Effective Use of Data

22 - Teacher Recruitment and Retention

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Jeff Dyer, Program Advisor Teacher Recruitment and Retention

Date: Wednesday: 12:15 – 1:15, 1:30 – 2:30, and 2:45 – 3:45

Thursday: 8:30 – 9:30 and 9:45 – 10:45

Room: 202

Session Description:

We will discuss different opportunities for schools to recruit and retain quality teachers through the Teacher Cadets Program along with different ways to spend funds and utilize community resources.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Effective Teachers

23 – Data Uses for School Improvement

Presenter(s):

Dr. Sally Robison and Dr. Robert Toney
ADE School Improvement Unit

Date: Wednesday: 1:30 – 2:30, and 2:45 – 3:45

Thursday: 8:30 – 9:30 and 9:45 – 10:45

Room: Wednesday in 203 and Thursday in 209

Session Description:

So, we have all this data, but are we analyzing the data properly? Does the data tell a story? Often we collect data, but what are we doing with it to determine program effectiveness? Are we looking at the data longitudinally, collecting pre and post information, or handing out survey instruments? This presentation will discuss many data analysis possibilities and help guide you with ways to look at your data for direction and for the effectiveness of innovations being used in your district.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Effective Use of Data

24 – Arkansas TESS and LEADS: Supporting Effective Teaching and Learning

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Sandra Hurst, ADE Office of Educator Effectiveness Director
Becky Gibson, ADE Educator Evaluation Program Advisor

Date: Wednesday: 1:30 – 2:30 and 2:45 – 3:45

Room: 102

Session Description:

Participants will receive information from the first year of state-wide implementation of TESS and LEADS. Successful strategies from High Engagement School Districts will be shared. Updates to TESS and LEADS as a result of ACT 1091 of 2015 will be presented. Those who attend will leave with new resources to enhance the work of implementing improved professional practices. Also, future plans for this work will be shared.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Strong Leadership
Effective Teachers
Strengthening the Instructional Program
Effective Use of Data

25 - Paraprofessionals – McKinney-Vento Homeless Education – Neglected and Delinquent Funds

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Chandra Martin, ADE Public School Program Advisor
Dana Davis, ADE McKinney-Vento State Coordinator

Date: Wednesday: 8:30 – 9:30 and 9:45 – 10:45
Thursday: 8:30 – 9:30 and 9:45 – 10:45

Room: Wednesday in 208 and Thursday 204

Session Description:

Paraprofessional:

- Who, what, when, where, how and why.
- What is a paraprofessional
- Differences between an aide and a paraprofessional.
- What is NOT a paraprofessional?
- State minimum requirements for paraprofessionals and what is NOT acceptable
- Major concerns and common mistakes.

- Paraprofessional Compliance Report – What is it, when it is due, who should be listed.

Neglected and Delinquent:

- What are N&D funds?
- Who is eligible to receive them?
- How does the funding work?
- How is funding generated?
- What can they do with the funds?
- How do districts apply for the funds?
- When is the application due?
- What does the application entail?
- What is the benefit to the district?

McKinney-Vento:

An overview of important foundational concepts outlined in the McKinney-Vento Act will be presented. Topics included will be:

- District requirements according to Federal Law
- Determining eligibility for McKinney-Vento rights and services
- Warning signs and challenges of homelessness
- Support for school success available to homeless children and youth.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Strengthening the Instructional Program

Effective Use of Data

School Climate and Culture

26 - Building School Climate to Improve Achievement among Learners from Poverty

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Teena Bell and Lasonia Johnson

ADE School Improvement Unit

Date: Tuesday: 8:30 – 9:30

Wednesday: 12:15 – 1:15, 1:30 – 2:30, and 2:45 – 3:45

Thursday: 8:30 – 9:30

Room: Tuesday 209, Wednesday 201, and **Thursday 208**

Session Description:

This presentation will include relationship building strategies, the impact of high expectations, and the use of Indistar indicators to develop a plan for addressing the needs of poverty learners, provide a way to monitor the progress made, and determine

the effectiveness of the plan. Participants will explore the various viewpoints of people in poverty and how that relates to teachers instructing students living in poverty.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Strengthening the Instructional Program

27 - Focusing on Results for Students with Disabilities

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Jennifer Gonzales, ADE State Systemic Improvement Plan Coordinator

Date: Wednesday: 12:15 – 1:15, 1:30 – 2:30, and 2:45 – 3:45

Room: 208

Session Description:

The ADE Special Education Unit is updating the manner in which it supports and oversees special education programs. The focus of special education is shifting from one that has traditionally been compliance based to a more balanced approach that includes compliance and results. A new comprehensive monitoring and technical support system is being piloted which will include a compliance component, but the main focus will be on increasing results for students with disabilities. This session will provide an outline of the services and supports available through the Arkansas Department of Education Special Education Unit and associated grants. Information will be shared regarding the state's focus on results – driven accountability, professional development and technical assistance opportunities, and web-based resources.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Strong Leadership

Effective Teachers

Strengthening the Instructional Program

28 - Using Pre-AP and Advanced Placement to Change School Culture

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Dr. Mary Stein, Office of Gifted & Talented and AP, Program Coordinator

Krystal Nail, Office of Gifted & Talented and AP, Program Advisor

Dr. Ken James, President of Arkansas Advanced Initiative for Math and Science

Lynn Harrison, Office of Gifted & Talented and AP, Program Coordinator, Program Manager

Date: Wednesday: 8:30 – 9:30 and 9:45 – 10:45

Room: 202

Session Description:

Superintendents, principals, and curriculum specialists will learn about ways to use Pre-AP and Advanced Placement courses to promote a culture of educational excellence and academic risk taking in schools. The growth in Arkansas over the last decade regarding participation and success on Advanced Placement exams will be discussed. Free College Board resources will be shared. Resources for teacher training, grants for equipment and materials for AP courses, and the availability and uses for incentive money for scores of 3, 4, and 5 will be shared. The Arkansas AIMS program will share the resources available through AIMS to strengthen Advanced Placement participation and success.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Strengthening the Instructional Program

29 - Embracing Academic Distress as a District

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Sally Cooke, Blytheville School District Curriculum Director
Bobby Ashley, Principal, Blytheville High School New Tech
Mike Wallace, Principal, Blytheville Middle School

Date: Tuesday: 8:30 – 9:30 and 9:45 – 10:45
Wednesday: 12:15 – 1:15

Room: Tuesday in 208 and Wednesday in 102

Session Description:

This session tells the story of how we took the designation of academic distress assigned to our middle and high schools and asked to approach the solution from a district perspective. Our desire was to work systemically from K-12 on all the issues. We will describe the thought process that led us to create a growth mindset in both district and school leadership teams, create a culture of candor to address the issues head on, and develop a system to evaluate all that we are doing to effect positive academic growth in a high poverty environment.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Strong Leadership
Strengthening the Instructional Program

30 - Data Data Everywhere; Make It Easy as We Share: Using Data to Build Required Student Action Plans and Written Transition Plans

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Lori Lamb, ADE Alternative Education Director
Dr. C. W. Gardenhire, ADE Alternative Education Advisor
Deborah Bales, ADE Alternative Education Advisor

Date: Monday: 2:30 – 3:30 and 3:45 – 4:45

Room: 209

Session Description:

An interactive presentation where participants will be engaged in a discussion of the types of data available and how the data can be used to create student-centered action plans for use in Alternative Education or traditional setting. This presentation will benefit anyone that works in an Alternative Education setting or anyone interested in student-centered interventions.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Effective Use of Data

31 – Beginning Administrator and Novice Teacher Mentoring**Presenter(s) Title/Position:**

Maureen Harness and Renee Nelson
ADE Office of Educator Effectiveness

Date: Wednesday at 12:15 – 1:15, 1:30 – 2:30, and 2:45 – 3:45

Room: 207

Session Description:

Participants will understand how the Beginning Administrator Mentoring Program aligns to the Leader, Excellence, and Development System (LEADS) and provides support and focused feedback with regard to leadership skills, professional behavior, and relevant, continuous professional growth. Participants will also understand how the Novice Teacher Mentoring Program aligns with the Teacher Excellence and Support System (TESS) by providing continuous professional growth through the implementation of goals in the novice teacher's Professional Growth Plan; identification and celebration of strength areas; procurement of resources (both human and material); and identification of professional development opportunities.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Strong Leadership
Effective Teachers

32 – Title III Requirements and Responsibilities

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Miguel A. Hernandez, Jr., Title III Program Advisor, ADE Federal Programs Unit

Date: Thursday 8:30 – 9:30 and 9:45 – 10:45

Room: 201

Session Description:

Participants will learn strategies for scaffolding learning for students with limited English proficiency so that these students meet the same challenging state academic standards as all children. Strategies for promoting family and community participation in English learner programs will also be shared.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Effective Teachers

Strengthening the Instructional Program

Effective Family and Community Engagement

33 – On a Pathway to College and Career Readiness: Why Not?

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Dr. Tracy Tucker, Superintendent
Hermitage School District

Date: Thursday: 8:30 – 9:30 and 9:45 – 10:45

Room: 207

Session Description:

This session will explore the concept of College and Career Ready (CCR) standards and how the desire to graduate all of our students ready for college or a career has resulted in work by the local school board and district leadership team. You will hear how the plan is evolving in the Hermitage School District this year as we move down a pathway to excellence. Participants will walk away with an idea of how to start the work and engage stakeholders, as well as knowledge of steps we plan to take as we continue along the way towards being great!

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Strong Leadership

Effective Teachers

Strengthening the Instructional Program

Effective Use of Data

School Climate and Culture

34 – Is Your PD Delivery Ready for a ReMix? ZOOM-ing in Arkansas

Presenter(s) Title/Position:

Cathi Swan, State Coordinator of K-12 Digital Learning

Mike Lar, Virtual Arkansas Director of Operations

Evan Patrick, Digital Learning Support Specialist

Date: Wednesday 12:15 – 1:15

Room: 203

Session Description:

Are you ready to ReMix your group meetings or your professional development delivery? Learn the basics of the ZOOM education small group meeting option that is sweeping across Arkansas. A ReMixed meeting or session is a new or different version of a session that is designed by changing or adding to the original model. Welcome to the Zoom Room Arkansas!

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Effective Teachers

Effective Use of Time

Strengthening the Instructional Program

School Climate and Culture

35 – Power Up with Virtual Arkansas

Presenter(s):

Cathi Swan, State Coordinator of K-12 Digital Learning

Mike Lar, Virtual Arkansas Director of Operations

Evan Patrick, Digital Learning Support Specialist

Date: Thursday 9:45 – 10:45

Room: 208

Session Description:

Virtual Arkansas is an Arkansas-based program that is implemented through a partnership between the Arkansas Department of Education and the Arkansas Education Service Cooperatives. We provide an array of quality digital courses to public school students in Arkansas, and utilize Arkansas licensed instructors. School districts “Power Up with Virtual Arkansas” for a variety of reasons. A district may face a teacher shortage, or want to provide additional course scheduling opportunities to their

students, or offer their students access to a digitally-enriched curriculum, or to broaden their course offerings beyond those mandated by the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools. Finally, districts that partner with Virtual Arkansas will be satisfying the requirements of Act 1280, the Digital Learning Act. This session will begin with an overview of Virtual Arkansas and the different services offered to school districts across the state. After the overview there will be a question-and-answer period that will allow school leaders to take what they have learned and implement it in their school environment.

Turnaround Principle Topic:

Effective Use of Time

Strengthening the Instructional Program

School Climate and Culture

36 – Team Planning with ADE SIS

Presenter(s):

ADE School Improvement Specialists

Dates and Rooms:

Tuesday: 8:30 – 9:30 Rooms 201 and 202; 9:45 – 10:45 Rooms 201 and 202; 12:15 – 1:15 Room 207; 1:30 – 2:30 Room 207; and 2:45 – 3:45 Rooms 208 and 209

Wednesday: 8:30 – 9:30 Rooms 102 and 103; 9:45 – 10:45 Room 207

Thursday: 8:30 – 9:30 Rooms 102, 103, 203 and 205; 9:45 – 10:45 in Rooms 102, 103, and 203

Session Description:

Get a jump start on school improvement planning for the 2015-2016 school year as you receive personalized coaching from your assigned SIS. Teams must contact their assigned SIS to schedule an appointment.

37 – RTI Arkansas

Presenter(s):

Stacy Smith, Director

ADE Curriculum and Instruction Unit

Dates: Tuesday 12:15 – 1:15 and 1:30 – 2:30

Room: 208

Session Description:

What is RTI Arkansas? Response to Intervention (RTI) is an educational framework designed to identify students who may be at risk for learning or behavior challenges,

offer support, and monitor progress. RTI Arkansas is a multi-tiered model, framed by an assessment structure, including screening, diagnostics, and progress monitoring; formative and summative assessments; and data-based decision making. This general education model calls for collaboration among administration, special- and general-education teachers, specialists, and other education professionals to diligently screen, effectively instruct, immediately intervene, and continuously monitor for maximum student achievement.